

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kenichi Iida  
Serial No.:  
Filed :  
For : RECORDING AND/OR REPRODUCING APPARATUS  
AND RECORDING APPARATUS  
Group A.U.:  
EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EL759830792US

March 12, 2001  
1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 278-0400

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, which is a division of application Serial No. 08/924,091 filed September 5, 1997, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be amended as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-6, 13, and 14 by rewriting same to read as follows, cancel claims 5-12 and 18-27, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claim 28 set forth below.

--1. (Amended) A recording and/or reproducing apparatus comprising:

a storage section for storing a plurality of digital audio

programs to be recorded

selecting means for selecting a digital audio program from said plurality of digital audio programs stored in said storage means;

reading-out means for reading out the selected digital audio program from said storage section;

reproducing means for reproducing the read-out digital audio program;

erasure directing means for directing an erasure of the reproduced digital audio program; and

a control section for controlling erasing said digital audio program stored in said storage section when said erasure directing means directs said erasure of said reproduced digital audio program during the reproducing of said digital audio program selected by said selecting means.

--2. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control section operates so that, if a digital audio program being read out from the storage section is shorter than a pre-set value, the digital audio program being read out from said storage section is read out in its entirety from said storage section and so that, if subsequently an input for erasure is again entered from the erasure directing means, the digital audio program being read out from the storage section is erased from the storage section.

--3. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said control section operates so

that if, when the digital audio program written in said storage section is read out therefrom, an input for erasure is entered by said erasure directing means, the digital audio program read out from said storage section is read out a pre-set number of time.

--4. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control section operates so that, if the digital audio program being read out from said storage section is longer than a pre-set value, a leading portion and a trailing portion of the digital audio program read out from said storage section are read out from said storage section and so that, if subsequently an input for erasure is again entered from said erasure directing means, the digital signal being read out from said storage section is erased therefrom.

--5. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said control section operates so that if, when the digital audio program written inn said storage section is read out therefrom, an input for erasure is entered by said erasure directing means, the digital audio program read out from said storage section is read out a pre-set number of times on end.

--6. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control section operates so that if, when the digital audio program written in said storage

section is read out, an input for erasure is entered by said erasing directing means, the erasure operation is discontinued if, after the digital audio program read out from the storage section is read out for a pre-set time, an input other than direction for erasure is entered by said erasing directing means.

--13. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

a display section and an illumination section for illuminating said display section based on an input from said erasure directing means, said control section operating for lighting said illuminating section for a pre-set time based on an input from said erasure directing means for illuminating said illuminating section.

--14. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said control section includes a timer started based on an input from said erasure directing means for initiating measurement of the lighting time of the illuminating section.

--28. (New) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control section controls erasing of said digital audio program in said storage section when a direction for erasing is again entered by said erasure directing means after said input for erasing was entered during reading out of said digital audio program from said storage section.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, and 13-17 remain in this application with claims 1-6, 13, and 14 having been amended hereby, claims 5-12 and 18-27 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer and new claim 28 having been added.

This application is a division of application Serial No. 08/924,091 filed September 5, 1997.

In the parent application allowable subject matter was identified in claims 2-5, 14, 15, 25, and 26 and the independent claims in the application were amended to include such allowable subject matter.

Nevertheless, the claims presently in this application are not cast to include that allowable subject matter.

In the parent application the claims were rejected as being anticipated by Okano et al., U.S. Patent 5,774,863, and the following discussion is intended to distinguish the present invention over what is disclosed in Okano et al.

The present invention is intended to provide a control means that can erase one digital audio program from among a plurality of digital audio programs when an erasure directing means directs such erasure of the reproduced digital audio program during playback of that digital audio program after having been selected by a selector. Thus, according to the present invention as recited in the amended claims, the user can erase one digital audio program after confirming that the digital audio program is to be erased.

On the other hand, Okano et al. discloses only a so-called

partial erasing mode and a whole letter erasing mode.

The partial erasing mode can erase the speech data from a selected start position and a selected end position, as described at column 13 line 8 through column 14 line 3.

The whole letter erasing mode can erase the entire contents stored in the solid state memory, as described at column 14 line 4 through column 14 line 62.

Therefore, in using the Okano et al. system such as the partial erasing mode the user has to go through the bothersome operations of directing "a start position and an end position" and also in the whole letter erasing mode the user can not confirm the erased audio program because the apparatus erases the entire contents.

Therefore, the present invention is an improvement over Okano et al. and provides additional features not found therein.

Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP



Jay H. Maioli  
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:co

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-6, 13, and 14 by rewriting same to read as follows, cancel claims 5-12 and 18-27, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claim 28 set forth below.

--1. (Amended) A recording and/or reproducing apparatus comprising:

[a microphone;]

a storage section [in which an output signal of the microphone is written and from which written signals are read out] for storing a plurality of digital audio programs to be recorded

selecting means for selecting a digital audio program from said plurality of digital audio programs stored in said storage means;

[an input operating section for writing the output signal of the microphone in said storage section,] reading-out means for reading out [signals stored in] the selected digital audio program from said storage section [and for erasing the signals stored in the storage section]; [and]

reproducing means for reproducing the read-out digital audio program;

erasure directing means for directing an erasure of the reproduced digital audio program; and

a control section for controlling [the writing of the output

signal of the microphone] erasing said digital audio program stored in said storage section [based on an input from said operating section and for controlling readout of the signals stored in said storage section; said control section operating so that, if, when the signals written in said storage section is read out therefrom, an input for erasure is entered by said operating section, the signal being read out from said storage section is erased when, after reading out the signal from the storage section for a pre-set period, an input for erasure is again entered from said operating section] when said erasure directing means directs said erasure of said reproduced digital audio program during the reproducing of said digital audio program selected by said selecting means.

--2. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control section operates so that, if a [signal] digital audio program being read out from the storage section is shorter than a pre-set value, the [signal] digital audio program being read out from said storage section is read out in its entirety from said storage section and so that, if subsequently an input for erasure is again entered from the [operating section] erasure directing means, the digital [signal] audio program being read out from the storage section is [eased] erased from the storage section.

--3. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said control section operates so

that if, when the [signals] digital audio program written in said storage section is read out therefrom, an input for erasure is entered by said [operating section] erasure directing means, the digital [signal] audio program read out from said storage section is read out a pre-set number of time [on end].

--4. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control section operates so that, if the [signal] digital audio program being read out from said storage section is longer than a pre-set value, a leading portion and a trailing portion of the [signal] digital audio program read out from said storage section are read out from said storage section and so that, if subsequently an input for erasure is again entered from said [operating section] erasure directing means, the digital signal being read out from said storage section is erased therefrom.

--5. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said control section operates so that if, when the [signals] digital audio program written inn said storage section is read out therefrom, an input for erasure is entered by said [operating section] erasure directing means, the digital [signal] audio program read out from said storage section is read out a pre-set number of times on end.

--6. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control section operates so

that if, when the [signals] digital audio program written in said storage section is read out, an input for erasure is entered by said [operating section] erasing directing means, the erasure operation is discontinued if, after the digital [signal] audio program read out from the storage section is read out for a pre-set time, an input other than [an input] direction for erasure is entered by said [operating section] erasing directing means.

--13. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

a display section and an illumination section for illuminating said display section based on an input from said [operating section] erasure directing means, said control section operating for lighting said illuminating section for a pre-set time based on an input from said [operating section] erasure directing means for illuminating said illuminating section.

--14. (Amended) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said control section includes a timer started based on an input from said [operating section] erasure directing means for initiating measurement of the lighting time of the illuminating section.

--28. (New) The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control section controls erasing of said digital audio program in said storage section when a direction for erasing is again entered by said erasure directing

7217/54019-Z

means after said input for erasing was entered during reading out of said digital audio program from said storage section.--